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LETTER DATED 14 JUNE 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter of Iraq's Permanent Representative contained in Security Council document S/22502, I have the honour to make the following observation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemned all attacks against civilian populations in the allied war against Iraq as a matter of legal and moral principle. It further underlined the need to respect the sanctity of religious shrines in Iraq. During the war, Iraqi officials always applauded this position of principle which Iran had adopted and actively pursued.

On the basis of the same principle the Islamic Republic of Iran could not have turned a blind eye to the plight of the Iraqi civilian population caused by the Iraqi army which resulted in the exodus of 1.4 million Iraqi civilians into Iran and about 500,000 others into Turkey on the one hand and desecration of the sacred shrines on the other. Therefore the statement of the esteemed leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 5 April 1991, was not an interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, but fulfilment of an Islamic and international responsibility, as seen in similar statements of abhorrence and condemnation by many other leaders throughout the world. Despite the universality of such condemnation the Government of Iraq chose to renew its propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iraq's state-run press and news agency began to be filled with insult against the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran while Iraq's military increased its violations at the borders just like the days preceding its aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22 September 1980.

The Islamic Republic of Iran warns the Government of Iraq against the age old technique of creating external conflict for resolving internal problems.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative